October 10, 1958

BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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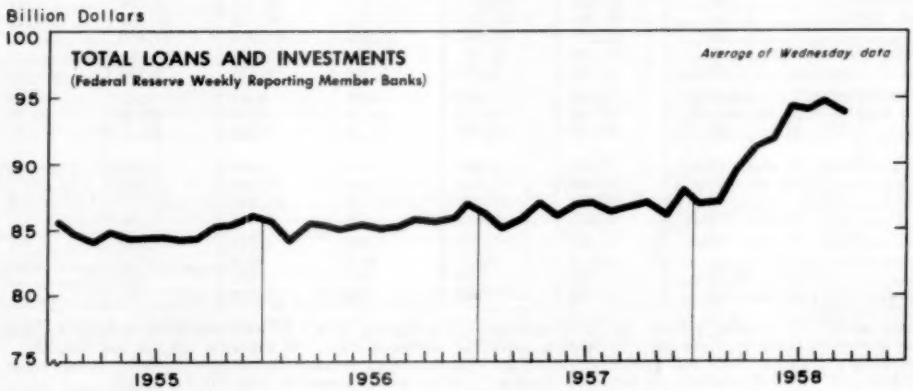
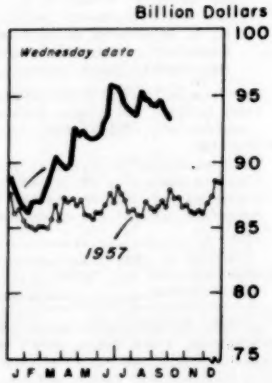
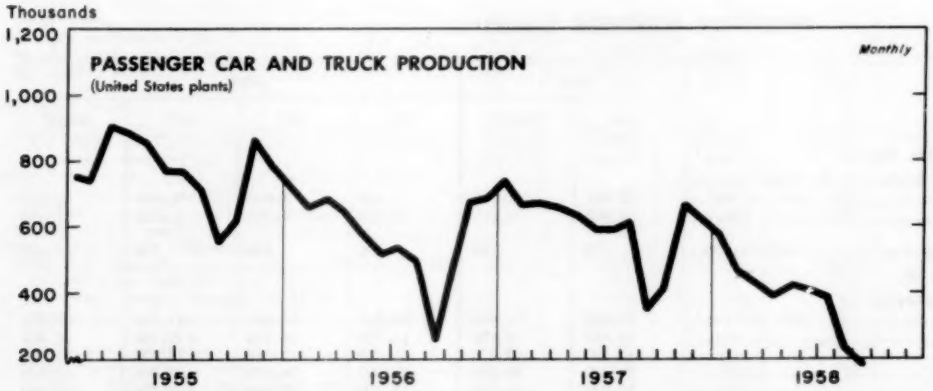
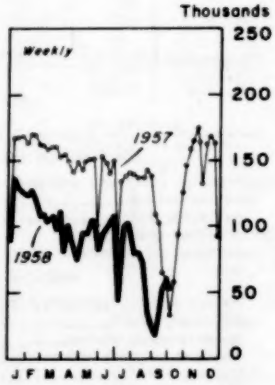
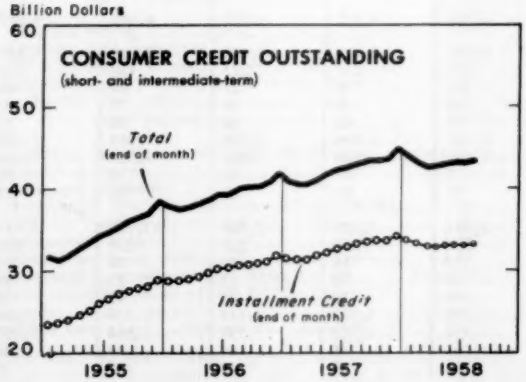
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

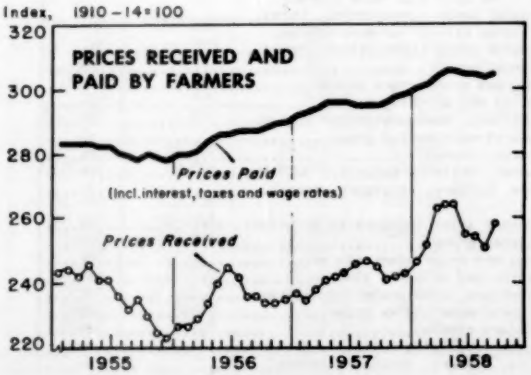












WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

ITEM	1957		1958			
	Sept. 28	Oct. 5	Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 27	Oct. 4
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*118.0	119.0	119.0	118.9	118.8
Farm products.....do....	.....	*91.0	93.3	93.2	92.3	91.9
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*106.5	110.8	111.3	111.4	111.0
All other.....do....	.....	*126.0	126.1	126.0	126.0	126.0
22 commodities 2/.....do....	86.2	85.3	86.2	86.1	85.8	85.6
Department store sales.....do....	139	136	145	136	136	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	1,255	1,261	**2,116	**2,026	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	1,165	1,169	1,923	1,840	.....	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	278	261	256	262	268	301
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	31,052	31,039	31,433	31,393	31,285	31,215
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/.....do....	25,622	25,304	26,661	26,644	26,558	26,275
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	18,963	19,034	18,479	18,572	18,404	18,234
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	547	349	655	687	616	492
Reporting member banks (of F.R.System) in leading cities: 4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	54,788	54,015	56,719	56,800	55,540	.....
Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do....	23,838	23,900	28,563	28,367	28,306	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	86,558	87,898	94,703	94,118	93,380	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	24,537	25,654	32,664	31,913	31,465	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)....do....	32,408	32,331	30,084	30,467	30,244	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	8,725	8,727	9,100	9,139	9,140	.....
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	4.45	4.45	4.38	4.41	4.42	4.43
Stock prices, 500 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) 4/...1941-43=10..	42.46	43.10	48.31	49.33	49.70	49.98
Industrials, 425 stocks.....do....	45.90	46.54	51.68	52.84	53.30	53.51
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,708	1,655	1,391	1,404	1,483	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	11,697	11,564	12,248	12,240	12,342	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	60,794	33,663	30,948	51,260	56,913	52,358
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,821	6,812	7,009	7,087	7,100	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	2,105	2,115	1,780	1,771	1,816	1,901
Percent of capacity.....	#82.2	#82.6	65.9	65.6	67.3	70.4
Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars..	739	748	666	667	673	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	352	358	326	329	326	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week beginning October 6, 1958: Production, 1,918 thous. short tons; operating rate, 71.1 percent. * Monthly index for September 1957. ** Excludes 654,000 and 650,000 insured unemployed reported under temporary programs (TUC) for September 13 and 20, respectively. # Based on January 1, 1957, annual capacity (133,459,150 tons); not comparable with 1958 rates which are based on January 1, 1958, annual capacity (140,742,570 tons).

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1957		1958			
	July	August	May	June	July	August
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Construction contracts awarded, 48 States (F. W. Dodge Corp.):						
Total valuation.....mil. of dol..	2,901	2,818	3,403	3,820	3,607	3,467
Building, total.....do....	2,248	2,292	2,470	2,340	2,633	2,530
Construction cost index:						
Department of Commerce, composite.....1947-49=100..	138	138	138	139	139	140
DOMESTIC TRADE						
All retail stores, estimated inventories:						
Unadjusted, total.....mil. of dol..	23,660	24,040	24,360	23,820	r23,490	23,520
Durable-goods stores.....do....	10,880	10,970	11,270	10,950	r10,720	10,400
Nondurable-goods stores.....do....	12,780	13,070	13,090	12,870	r12,770	13,120
Adjusted, total.....do....	24,140	24,250	23,880	24,070	r23,990	23,870
Durable-goods stores.....do....	10,850	11,040	10,790	10,800	r10,730	10,640
Nondurable-goods stores.....do....	13,290	13,210	13,090	13,270	r13,260	13,230
Retail firms with 4 or more stores:						
Estimated sales (unadjusted), total.....do....	3,894	4,284	4,417	4,073	4,045	4,277
Retail firms with 11 or more stores:						
Estimated sales (unadjusted), total.....do....	3,276	3,670	3,795	3,473	3,465	3,697
Apparel group.....do....	182	207	237	223	188	210
Drug and proprietary stores.....do....	83	85	93	87	89	92
Eating and drinking places.....do....	78	80	74	74	77	80
Furniture, homefurnishings stores.....do....	32	37	42	38	38	39
General-merchandise group.....do....	953	1,109	1,096	1,028	983	1,106
Grocery stores.....do....	1,398	1,590	1,684	1,462	1,531	1,608
Lumber, building-materials dealers.....do....	69	73	71	71	73	75
Tire, battery, accessory stores.....do....	80	73	81	80	81	79
Estimated sales (seasonally adjusted), total.....do....	3,591	3,641	3,631	3,645	r3,728	3,771
Apparel group.....do....	229	244	226	225	239	250
Drug and proprietary stores.....do....	84	87	94	90	91	97
Eating and drinking places.....do....	74	76	73	73	73	75
Furniture, homefurnishings stores.....do....	35	36	38	40	41	39
General-merchandise group.....do....	1,172	1,168	1,122	1,117	1,174	1,201
Grocery stores.....do....	1,453	1,492	1,537	1,551	1,564	1,557
Lumber, building-materials dealers.....do....	62	61	64	64	64	66
Tire, battery, accessory stores.....do....	72	68	72	72	r73	75

r/ Revised.

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ITEM	1957		1958			
	July	August	May	June	July	August
DOMESTIC TRADE - Continued						
Wholesale trade:						
Sales, estimated (unadjusted), total.....bil. of dol..	11.4	11.7	10.9	10.9	11.1	11.3
Durable-goods establishments.....do....	4.3	4.3	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1
Nondurable-goods establishments.....do....	7.1	7.4	7.0	6.9	7.2	7.2
Inventories, estimated (unadjusted), total.....do....	12.5	12.7	11.8	11.8	r11.7	11.7
Durable-goods establishments.....do....	6.6	6.6	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1
Nondurable-goods establishments.....do....	5.9	6.1	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES						
Labor turnover in manufacturing establishments:						
Accession rate.....monthly rate per 100 employees..	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.8	r3.3	p3.7
Separation rate, total.....do....	3.1	4.0	3.6	2.9	r3.2	p3.2
Discharge.....do....	.2	.3	.1	.2	r.1	p.2
Lay-off.....do....	1.3	1.6	2.4	1.8	r2.0	p1.6
Quit.....do....	1.4	1.9	.8	.8	r.9	p1.2
Military and miscellaneous.....do....	.2	.3	.2	.2	.2	p.2
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS						
Inorganic chemicals, production:						
Ammonia, synthetic anhydrous (commercial).....short tons..	r293,957	r295,078	348,158	336,309	294,669	.....
Calcium carbide (commercial).....do....	83,009	87,581	73,503	59,726	63,357	.....
Carbon dioxide, liquid, gas, and solid.....do....	r101,309	r97,540	73,598	84,716	91,934	.....
Chlorine, gas.....do....	r335,155	r325,433	287,890	279,637	283,355	.....
Hydrochloric acid.....do....	r74,663	r76,981	67,670	64,291	60,301	.....
Nitric acid.....do....	r212,843	r235,701	210,050	175,535	191,792	.....
Oxygen (high purity).....mil. of cu. ft..	r2,581	r2,837	2,983	3,067	2,795	.....
Phosphoric acid.....short tons..	r123,620	r128,718	153,199	139,295	139,843	.....
Sodium carbonate (soda ash), synthetic.....do....	358,741	391,615	345,987	338,370	345,465	.....
Sodium bichromate and chromate.....do....	6,286	r7,959	8,761	7,651	3,753	.....
Sodium hydroxide.....do....	r365,030	r356,148	330,998	r318,441	317,432	.....
Sodium silicate, soluble silicate glass (anhydrous)...do....	41,156	46,045	1/34,636	1/32,789	1/30,308	.....
Sodium sulfate (Glauber's salt and crude salt cake)...do....	r64,212	r65,085	60,506	53,232	54,216	.....
Sulfuric acid.....thous. of short tons..	1,292	1,313	1,310	1,216	1,207	.....
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Castings, gray iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....thous. of short tons..	880	826	570	573	580	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	954	1,076	820	868	792	.....
For sale.....do....	523	597	472	542	466	.....
Castings, malleable iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....short tons..	80,694	84,876	46,603	48,260	58,340	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	57,748	65,426	48,306	51,882	41,865	.....
For sale.....do....	34,876	39,644	26,656	31,077	24,479	.....
Castings, steel:						
Shipments, total.....do....	122,018	145,926	87,002	92,861	68,802	.....
For sale, total.....do....	90,037	111,080	66,086	71,624	48,618	.....
Railway specialties.....do....	22,803	33,641	10,416	14,185	5,400	.....
Barrels and drums, steel, heavy types (for sale):						
Orders, unfilled, end of month.....thousands..	2,193	2,143	1,602	1,646	1,638	.....
Shipments.....do....	2,143	2,120	1,932	1,883	1,852	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	86	79	76	80	88	.....
Steel products, net shipments:						
Total (all grades).....thous. of short tons..	5,877	6,230	4,649	5,746	4,082	4,835
Semifinished products.....do....	273	272	193	232	120	176
Structural shapes (heavy), steel piling.....do....	634	636	388	448	295	349
Plates.....do....	792	732	404	502	321	398
Rails and accessories.....do....	192	174	104	109	51	43
Bars and tool steel, total.....do....	752	862	685	906	587	719
Bars: Hot rolled (incl. light shapes).....do....	489	569	415	542	344	455
Reinforcing.....do....	172	188	191	274	175	180
Cold finished.....do....	84	97	73	85	63	79
Pipe and tubing.....do....	859	914	592	740	513	567
Wire and wire products.....do....	218	250	285	354	197	252
Tin mill products (incl. black plate).....do....	460	494	491	522	514	560
Sheets and strip (incl. electrical), total.....do....	1,698	1,895	1,508	1,932	1,484	1,744
Sheets: Hot rolled.....do....	531	550	437	574	414	87
Cold rolled.....do....	791	900	661	852	675	81
Lead:						
Production, secondary, estimated recoverable....short tons..	26,670	33,908	28,266	26,586	23,563	.....
Consumption, total.....do....	85,569	105,442	75,800	80,000	80,500	.....
Stocks, end of month:						
Producers', ore, base bullion, and in process.....do....	134,039	122,340	112,739	112,734	118,519	.....
Refiners' (primary), refined and antimonial.....do....	67,296	60,029	154,105	162,476	164,072	.....
Consumers', total.....do....	92,601	96,624	119,167	113,470	105,843	.....
Scrap (lead-base, purchased), all consumers.....do....	45,063	43,633	39,211	35,310	36,025	.....
Vacuum cleaners, standard type, sales billed.....thousands..	218.3	241.2	218.8	253.1	263.8	280.2
Washers, domestic, sales billed 2/.....do....	335.1	329.1	256.9	282.0	268.8	322.1
Radio sets, production 3/.....do....	612.6	965.7	654.8	774.4	621.5	1,028.9
Television sets (incl. combination), production 3/.....do....	360.7	673.7	267.0	377.1	275.0	507.5

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Excludes quantities produced and consumed in making meta, ortho, and sesquisilicates. 2/ Data exclude sales of combination washer-dryer units; sales of such types totaled 12,400 units in August 1958. 3/ Data for June 1958 cover 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

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ITEM	1957		1958			
	August	September	June	July	August	September
COMMODITY PRICES						
Prices received and paid by farmers:						
Prices received, all farm products.....1910-14=100..	247	245	255	254	251	258
Crops.....do....	232	227	232	228	225	232
Commercial vegetables, fresh market.....do....	232	211	232	209	181	183
Cotton.....do....	278	279	246	260	281	292
Feed grains and hay.....do....	169	163	167	165	163	160
Food grains.....do....	217	217	197	190	190	195
Fruit.....do....	201	194	277	253	239	280
Oil-bearing crops.....do....	252	244	239	227	232	220
Potatoes (including dry edible beans).....do....	169	159	180	185	142	129
Tobacco.....do....	469	484	474	473	483	482
Livestock and products.....do....	261	260	275	277	275	280
Dairy products.....do....	260	272	241	246	255	264
Meat animals.....do....	302	291	348	347	338	339
Poultry and eggs.....do....	168	175	163	166	166	174
Wool.....do....	297	288	212	210	210	207
Prices paid:						
All commodities and services.....do....	273	273	282	282	281	282
Family living items.....do....	287	287	293	293	291	291
Production items.....do....	257	258	270	270	269	271
All commod., services, int., taxes, and wage rates..do....	295	r295	305	305	304	305
Parity ratio.....do....	84	83	84	83	83	85
FINANCE						
Consumer credit (short- and intermediate-term):						
Total outstanding, end of month.....mil. of dol..	43,101	43,270	43,122	43,026	43,217	.....
Installment credit, total.....do....	33,303	33,415	33,054	33,133	33,232	.....
Installment credit extended and repaid:						
Unadjusted: Extended, total.....do....	3,704	3,388	3,484	3,494	3,402	.....
Repaid, total.....do....	3,369	3,276	3,387	3,415	3,303	.....
Adjusted: Extended, total.....do....	3,591	3,546	3,265	3,342	3,431	.....
Repaid, total.....do....	3,343	3,418	3,392	3,374	3,401	.....
Security markets (Standard and Poor's Corporation):						
Bonds:						
Prices:						
Industrial, utility, and railroad (Aa+ issues):						
Composite (21 bonds).....dol. per $100 bond..	98.3	98.0	105.5	104.2	102.0	98.9
Domestic municipal (15 bonds).....do....	101.2	101.3	110.8	108.0	103.7	100.6
Yields, domestic municipal (15 bonds).....percent..	3.91	3.90	3.26	3.45	3.74	3.96
Stocks:						
Dividend yields, preferred stocks (14 high-grade)...do....	4.83	4.79	4.28	4.36	4.45	4.58
Prices:						
Combined index (500 stocks).....1941-43=10..	45.84	43.98	44.75	45.98	47.70	48.96
Industrial (425 stocks).....do....	49.51	47.52	47.62	48.96	51.00	52.40
Capital goods (129 stocks).....do....	48.48	46.32	45.17	46.92	49.75	51.34
Consumers' goods (196 stocks).....do....	33.65	32.75	34.78	36.01	37.44	38.90
Public utility (50 stocks).....do....	31.89	31.09	37.31	37.82	37.50	37.97
Railroad (25 stocks).....do....	29.52	27.17	25.54	26.86	28.43	29.51
Banks:						
N. Y. City (12 stocks).....do....	20.14	20.10	21.23	21.24	21.47	22.54
Outside N. Y. City (17 stocks).....do....	39.57	39.07	41.44	41.94	42.62	43.98
Fire insurance (17 stocks).....do....	25.66	24.70	28.16	28.38	28.72	28.54

r/ Revised.
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